

WSAC Genealogy Group

Presentation – January 2026

“Naturalization Records”

My topic for today is Naturalization Records



Naturalization Records

What are they? How can they help with genealogical research?

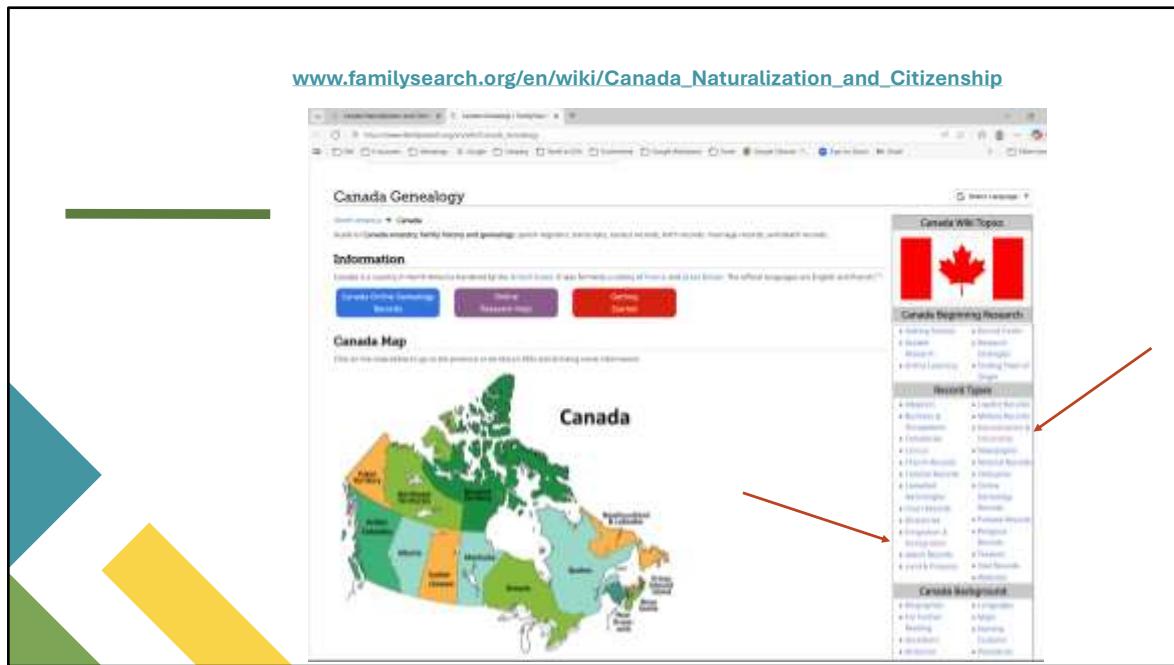
What value do they play in genealogical research? Where can we find them?

Naturalization Records

What are they? How can they help with genealogical research?

What value do they play in genealogical research? Where can we find them?

Canadian records go back as far as the 1820s through to the 1950s and can provide additional insight into our ancestors' origins, residence, occupation, age, and other valuable information.



In my search to try to answer the questions I went to the FamilySearch.org website, specifically the Research Wiki pages, to learn what I could from there. The arrow on the far right is pointing to the Record Type “Naturalization and Citizenship;” the other arrow is pointing to “Emigration and Immigration” – these two record types I felt would answer the questions.



"Emigration" means moving out of a country. "Immigration" means moving into a country.

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigrating) or arriving (immigrating) in the country.

Sources: Passenger lists, permissions to emigrate, records of passports issued.

Common source: Passenger lists

"Emigration" means moving out of a country. "Immigration" means moving into a country.

Emigration and immigration sources list the names of people leaving (emigrating) or arriving (immigrating) in the country. These sources may be passenger lists, permissions to emigrate, or records of passports issued. The information in these records may include the emigrants' names, ages, occupations, destinations, and places of origin or birthplaces. Sometimes they also show family groups.



Naturalization

Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship to foreign-born residents.

Immigrants to Canada have never been required to apply for citizenship. Some nationalities were more likely to naturalize than others.

Evidence that an immigrant completed citizenship requirements can be found in censuses, court minutes, homestead records, passports, voting registers, and military papers.

Common source: census and homestead records

Naturalization is the process of granting citizenship to foreign-born residents.

Naturalization papers are an important source of an immigrant's place of origin, foreign and "Anglicized" names, residence, and date of arrival. Post-1915 records are more detailed and may include birth dates, birthplaces, and other immigration information about the immigrant and members of the family.

Immigrants to Canada have never been required to apply for citizenship. Some nationalities were more likely to naturalize than others.

Until 1947, settlers from Britain were considered citizens of Canada without needing to naturalize. Of those from other countries who applied, some did not complete the requirements for citizenship. *Evidence that an immigrant completed citizenship requirements can be found in censuses, court minutes, homestead records, passports, voting registers, and military papers.*

Passenger Lists

The Demkiw family arrived in Canada in 1929 – mom, dad and 3 children – on board the ship Melita.

Library and Archives Canada, Collections Search webpage, is where I found the family.



I have an example for you regarding the Demkiw family. *The Demkiw family arrived in Canada in 1929 – mom, dad and 3 children – on board the ship Melita.* Library and Archives Canada, Collection Search webpage is used to find the family. However, I originally found this family back in 2008 and had requested a copy of the passenger list. For this presentation I attempted to recreate the search methods to find them.

Homestead records

The Alberta Homestead Index, found on the Alberta Genealogical Society's website at www.edmontongenealogy.ca/alberta-homestead-index, is an all-name index to Alberta land records held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

- Alberta Land Patents, 1885 – 1897
- Alberta Homestead Records, 1870 – 1930
- Alberta Homestead Records, post-1930



The Alberta Homestead Index, found on the Alberta Genealogical Society's website at www.edmontongenealogy.ca/alberta-homestead-index, is an all-name index to Alberta land records held at the Provincial Archives of Alberta.

Alberta Land Patents, 1885 – 1897

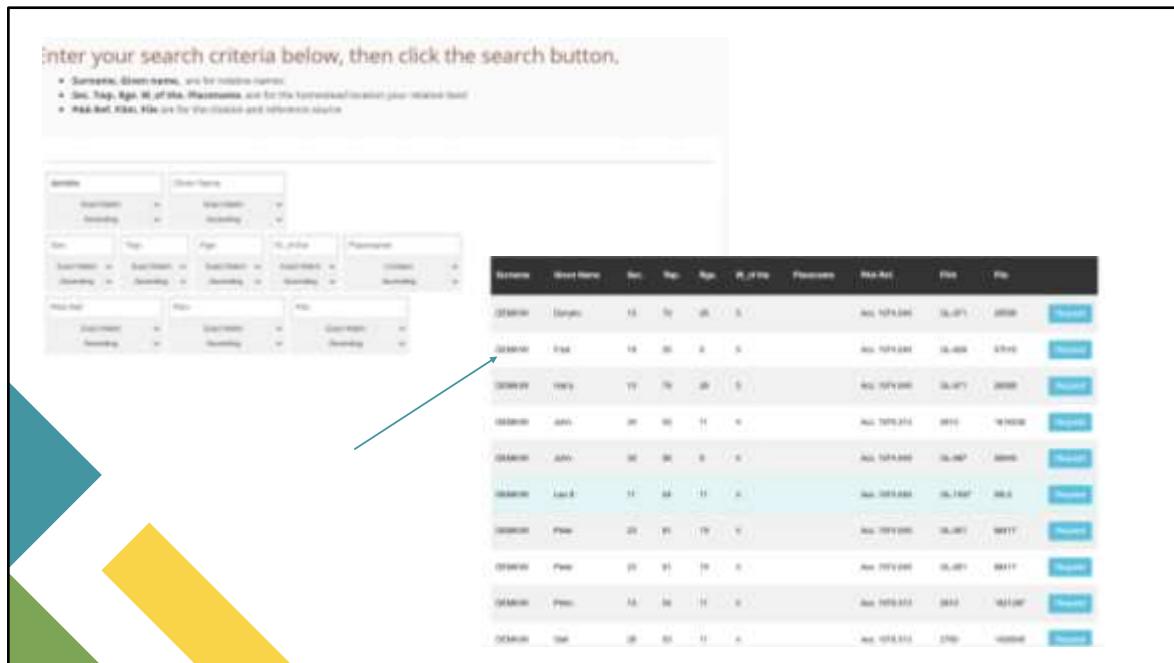
Alberta Homestead Records, 1870 – 1930

Alberta Homestead Records, post-1930

The webpage will enable you to locate the name and file information needed to obtain the file at the Provincial Archives of Alberta. The AGS website is an index only; the actual records are held at the Provincial Archives.

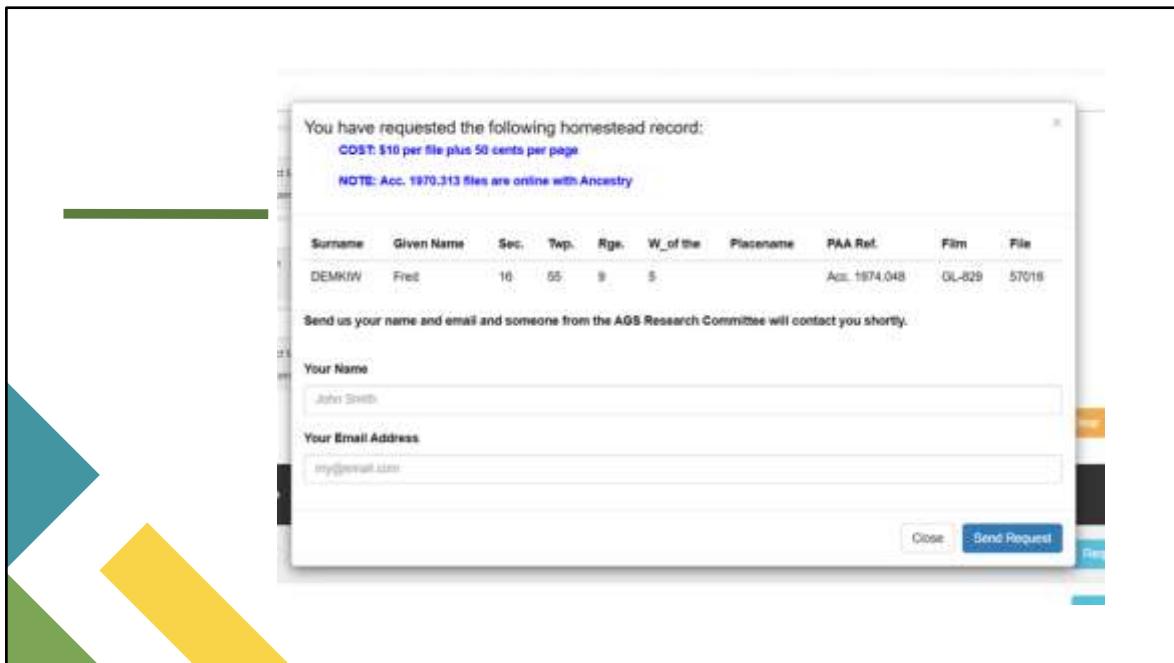
The homestead application from Fred Demkiw is an example. He applied for a homestead 14 August 1930; did what he had to do as required by the Homestead Act; then put in an application for patent (i.e., title) 15 February 1940 but it was not granted until after he and his wife became naturalized citizens of Canada. Plus, he had to sign documents clarifying his name (Fred or Teodor) which delayed the granting of the patent until 6 July 1942.

This example homestead application file included 41 pages of correspondence and other documents that were copied from the original file for my use.



This is a screenshot of the AGS Homestead search page.

If you are unable to visit the Provincial Archives, you can request a volunteer to obtain the file for you by clicking on the blue Request button. They will provide you with a copy of the entire file. They will not decide if a document is applicable to your research but will give you the whole file. At the Provincial Archives, you can choose which page(s) to copy.



Screenshot of the request. This request is forwarded to the Research Services volunteer(s) at AGS. It does indicate a cost for the search – they will, however, accept a donation – but the copy costs are at a fixed rate.

Censuses

One of the first acts of Canada after confederation was the creation of a national census. The government took the first national census in 1871, and afterwards, they took national censuses every ten years.

Census records can provide family relationships, age, year of birth, description of property, religion, and place of birth

Census

One of the first acts of Canada after confederation was the creation of a national census. The government took the first national census in 1871, and afterwards, they took national censuses every ten years. These records contain detailed information about individuals and their families, such as marital status, occupation, residence, gender, and ethnicity. The questions asked on the census varied from year to year. The completeness of the records varies, so some information might be missing.

Census records can provide family relationships, age, year of birth, description of property, religion, and place of birth. Generally, more recent censuses are more complete. They can provide information missing in other records. Use census information with caution because information (which may have been given by any family member) may be incorrect or deliberately falsified.

Master Index to Canadian Censuses

[Canada Census Search](#) at Library and Archives of Canada - index & images



[Canada.ca](#) > [Library and Archives](#) > [Collections](#) > [Search the censuses](#)

Census search

Search the census returns from 1825 to 1931. For search tips and more information see [Census records](#)

[Advanced search](#)



When
Choose one or more

- All Census years
- All preconfederation
- 1825 (Lower Canada)

- All Dominion of Canada
- 1871 (Ontario)

- All provinces
- 1871 (Manitoba)

The best place to find and search is at the Canada Census Search page on the Library and Archives Canada webpage – here's a screenshot of the page – although census information can be found on other websites.

National Censuses

* Abbreviations and Acronyms in Canadian censuses at Statistics Canada

1851	1861	1871
FamilySearch	FamilySearch; Quebec Prince Edward Island Ontario Nova Scotia New Brunswick	FamilySearch
Ancestry.com (\$)	Ancestry.com (\$)	Ancestry.com (\$)
Findmypast.com (\$)	Findmypast.com (\$)	Findmypast.com (\$)
Library and Archives of Canada	Library and Archives of Canada	Library and Archives of Canada

1881	1891	1901
FamilySearch	FamilySearch; index and images	FamilySearch
Ancestry.com (\$)	Ancestry.com (\$)	Ancestry.com (\$)
Findmypast.com (\$)	Findmypast.com (\$)	Findmypast.com (\$)
Library and Archives of Canada	Library and Archives of Canada	Library and Archives of Canada

1911	1921	1931
FamilySearch	FamilySearch	FamilySearch
Ancestry.com (\$)	Ancestry.com (\$)	Ancestry.com (\$)
Findmypast.com (\$)	MyHeritage.com (\$)	Library and Archives of Canada (\$); Images
Library and Archives of Canada	Library and Archives of Canada	

This screenshot from FamilySearch.org/Wiki shows the National Census that are available and where you could find the information. For example, the 1851 census can be found on

FamilySearch.org

Ancestry.com

FindmyPast.com

And Library and Archives of Canada

Partial and Territory Censuses

- Lower Canada = Quebec
- Upper Canada = Ontario
- Canada East = Quebec
- Canada West = Ontario

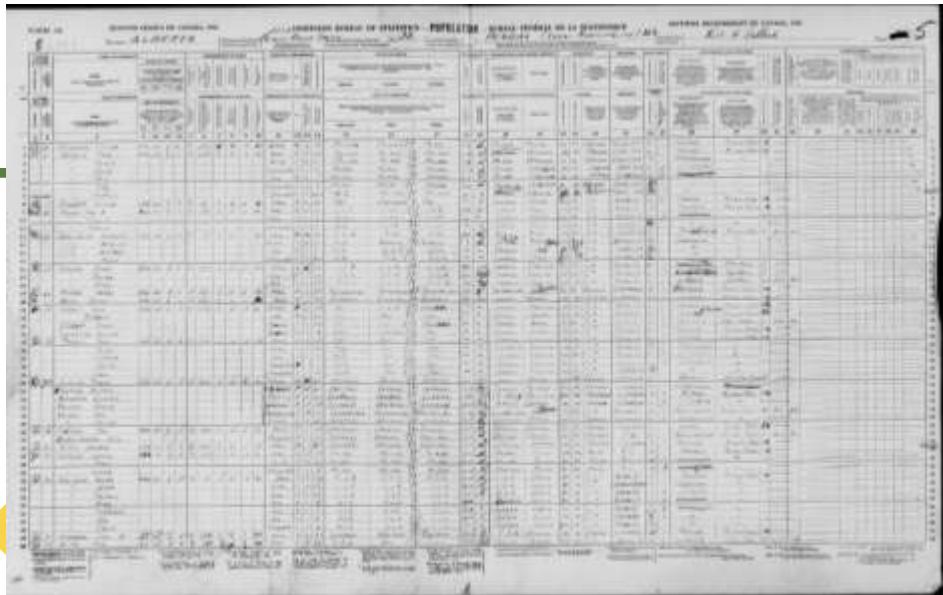
1825 Lower Canada Census	1831 Lower Canada Census	1842 Canada East Census	1842 Canada West Census
FamilySearch	FamilySearch	FamilySearch	FamilySearch
Ancestry.com (\$)	Ancestry.com (\$)	Ancestry.com (\$)	MyHeritage (\$)
Findmypast.com (\$)	Library and Archives of Canada	Findmypast.com (\$)	Findmypast (\$)
MyHeritage (\$)		Library and Archives of Canada	Library and Archives of Canada
Library and Archives of Canada			

Northwest and Prairie Province Censuses

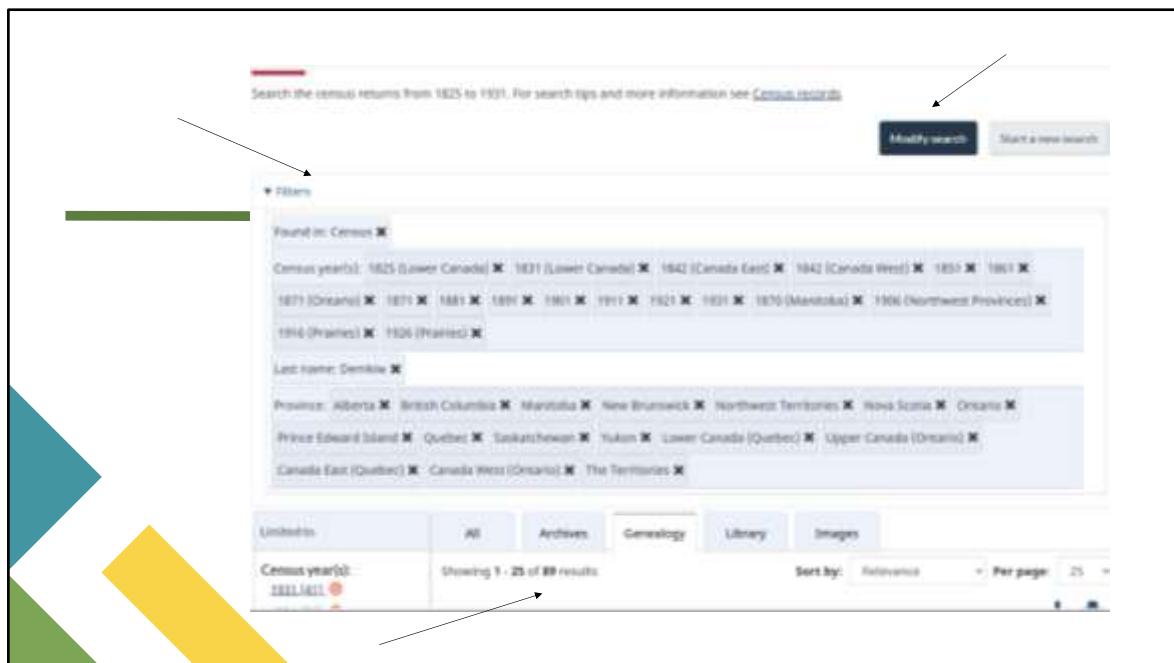
The Northwest and Prairie Province Censuses include: Alberta, Manitoba, Saskatchewan

1906 Northwest Provinces Census	1916 Prairie Provinces Census	1926 Prairie Provinces Census
FamilySearch ; index only	FamilySearch	FamilySearch
Ancestry (\$)	Ancestry (\$)	Ancestry (\$)
MyHeritage (\$)	MyHeritage (\$)	
Library and Archives of Canada		Library and Archives of Canada

These are the other Census available and where you could find the information.



This slide shows an example of a page from the 1931 census.

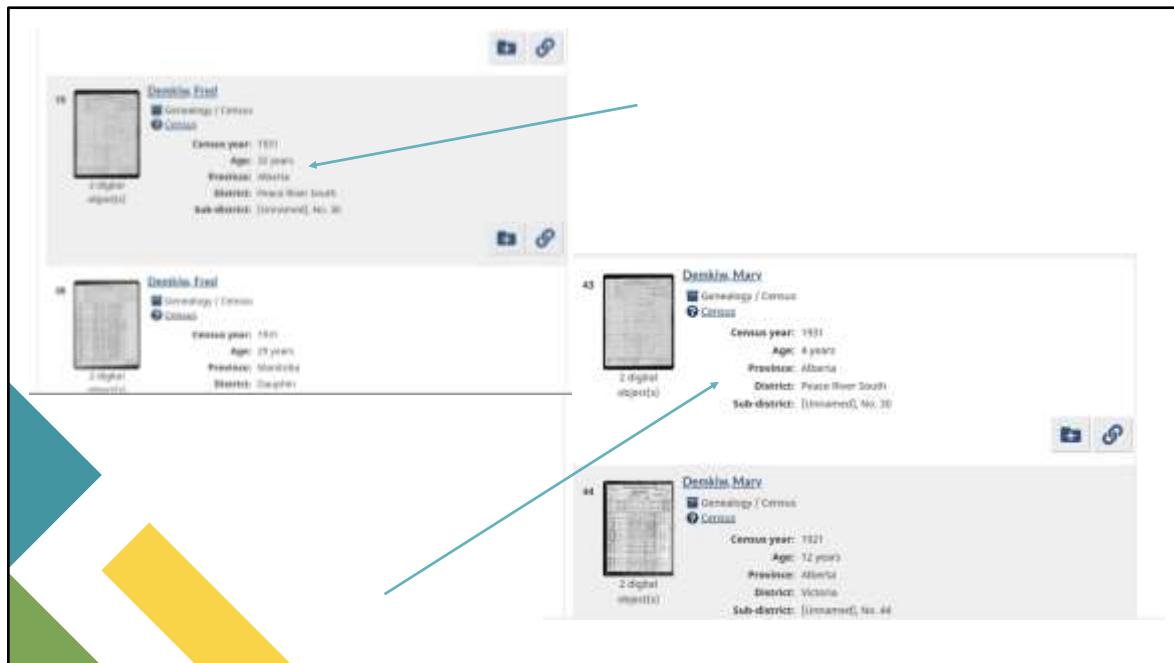


To search for a name in a census here's a screenshot of the webpage. It shows that I used all the filters in searching for Demkiw – not showing is the bit above the filters where I can put in the name. There are 89 results. To see them all, scroll down but that's a lot of scrolling and checking out names which you would probably have to do if you don't have any additional information. However, because I do have more information, I've modified the search by removing some of those filters.



The screenshot shows a search results page for census records. At the top, a message reads: "Search the census returns from 1825 to 1931. For search tips and more information see [Census records](#)". Below this are "Modify search" and "Start a new search" buttons. A search bar contains the text: "Found in: Census" (with a red X), "Census year(s): 1921 X 1931 X 1926 (Prairies) X", "Last name: Demkiw X", "Province: Alberta X Manitoba X Saskatchewan X". The results are listed under "Limited to: All" (selected), "Archives", "Genealogy", "Library", and "Images". The results table shows "Showing 1 - 25 of 76 results" and "Sort by: Relevance" with a "Per page: 25" dropdown. The first result is for "Demkiw, Alen" (with a red X). It includes a thumbnail image, a "Genealogy / Census" link, and a "Census" link. Below the thumbnail, details are provided: "Census year: 1921", "Age: 2 years", "Province: Alberta", and "Residence: Lethbridge".

This slide shows the revised filters and the results are now 76 – still a lot of scrolling. Let's look at this first person – Demkiw, Alen – he's listed in the 1921 census, age 2. If I thought he was part of the family I was looking for then I could click on the digital image and check. But I know he's not – my family arrived about 1929 so would not be in this census. So, keep scrolling.

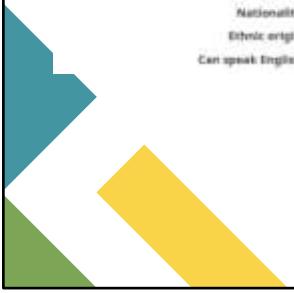


I've found Fred Demkiw but there's more than one – so check the additional details that are provided. Same with Mary Demkiw. You'll note that one Fred is 32 years old and the other 29 years old – one is from Alberta the other Manitoba. I know that my Fred is the 32-year-old from Alberta as he didn't stay in Manitoba. Now for the two Mary's – one is 4 years old and the other is 12 but they are both from Alberta. Which one is my Mary? She's the 4-year-old as Fred is her dad as the information is similar.

If you click on the digital object shown on the left, it will bring up the actual census page.

NAME AND BIRTHPLACE	PLACE OF BIRTH	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	RELATIONSHIP	CENSUS DAY				PLACE OF BIRTH	IMMIGRATION	NATURALIZATION AND BIRTHPLACE		
				1	2	3	4					
HEAD	PLACE OF BIRTH	DESCRIPTION OF WORK	RELATIONSHIP									
2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
Demkiw, Fred	Poland	Labourer	Head of Household	49	60-4-0	M	W	19	1929	1931	1931	1931
Demkiw, Tekla	Poland	Housewife	Wife	41	49-1-0			20	1929	1931	1931	1931
Demkiw, Annie	Poland	Student	Daughter	11	49-2-0			21	1929	1931	1931	1931
Demkiw, Paul	Poland	Student	Daughter	7	49-3-0			22	1929	1931	1931	1931
Demkiw, Mary	Poland	Student	Daughter	4	49-4-0			23	1929	1931	1931	1931
Demkiw, Feronia	Alberta	Student	Daughter	6	49-5-0			24	1929	1931	1931	1931

Clicking on the digital object brings up the 1931 census. This slide is the screenshot of the page which is enlarged (and you can do that on this website) to be able to somewhat read the document. It shows the Demkiw family – Fred, his wife Tekla, and 4 children – Annie (age 11), Paul (age 7), Mary (age 4), and Feronia (Veronica age 6 months). All are born in Poland (see Column 15) except for Veronica who was born in Alberta. The census also shows when they arrived in Canada (1929) in Column 18 and if they were naturalized in Column 19 (al – alien) and they were not.



▼ Record information

Census year: Census of Canada, 1931

Gender: Female

Age: 4 years

Found in: Genealogy / Census

Item ID number: 85218507

Estimate year of birth: 1927

Marital status: Single

Relationship: Daughter

Place of birth: Poland

Place of birth - Father: Poland

Place of birth - Mother: Poland

Year of immigration: 1929

Year of naturalization: 01

Nationality: Polish

Ethnic origin: Ukrainian

Can speak English: No

Can read and write: Cannot read nor write

Province: Alberta

House owned or rented: Owned

Class of house: Single House

Material of construction: Wood

Rooms assigned by family: 2

Has this family a radio? No

District name: Peace River-Smoothwater

Section number: 0224

Sub-district name: (Unknown)

Sub-district number: 38

Tax district description: Townships 54 and 55 in ranges 7, 8 and 9, west of the 90th meridian, lying west of Peace River and within the municipality of Fortinata

Residence: 58

Page number: 3

Line number: 6

Family number: 31

Image number: 011176281

Help page: Census

Scrolling a bit further down after the seeing the census, a Record Information screen appears – this is the screen shot of that area.

So now we know from both a passenger list and the 1931 census when the Demkiw family arrived in Canada and who they were. So, the next question is did they become naturalized and if so, when?



Requirements for Naturalization

The requirements and process of naturalization have changed many times.

Major laws and circumstances have affected naturalization requirements.

Before Canada became a nation (pre-1867) naturalization was completed in accordance with the laws of the provinces or with British law.

Prior to the War of 1812 there was no naturalization process in British North America. After the War of 1812 the first naturalization laws for the colonies of British North America were an eventual result of this war.

Requirements for Naturalization

The requirements and process of naturalization have changed many times. Major laws and circumstances have affected naturalization requirements.

Before Canada became a Nation (pre-1867): Naturalization was completed in accordance with the laws of the provinces or with British law. Between 1763 and 1947, non-alien residents of Canada were considered British subjects. Settlers from England, Scotland, Ireland, and Wales had no need to naturalize in Canada. Naturalization in Canada conferred British subject status on immigrants from other countries, but only for Canada.

Prior to the War of 1812: There was no naturalization process in British North America, although some colonies had laws that required aliens to declare the length of their residence and the nature of their business. Some immigrants had to take loyalty oaths when applying for land grants; copies of early oaths of allegiance and later naturalization papers were sometimes filed with land records.

After the War of 1812: The first naturalization laws for the colonies of British North America were an eventual result of the War of 1812. In New Brunswick, certificates of naturalization date from 1817. In Upper Canada (Ontario) the law did not take effect until 1828. Laws for the other provinces were enacted later, although some documents had been made under British law.

Requirements for Naturalization

After Confederation (1867) most naturalization was a federal process, although provinces retained some jurisdiction over immigrants.

Since 1867 certificates of naturalization have normally been granted by the office of the Secretary of State for Canada.

In 1947 Canadian citizenship was established separate from British.

Requirements for Naturalization

After Confederation (1867): Most naturalization was a federal process, although provinces retained some jurisdiction over immigrants. Since 1867, certificates of naturalization have normally been granted by the office of the Secretary of State for Canada. Petitions for citizenship were received by judicial courts, which forwarded them to the Secretary of State's office for approval. Certificates of naturalization were returned to the courts, where they were delivered to the applicants after they had taken an oath of citizenship.

In 1947: Canadian citizenship was established separate from British.

Naturalization Act, 1914

To be approved for a certificate of naturalization, immigrants were required to live in Canada for five years, possess adequate knowledge of French or English, and exhibit good moral character.

Canadian Citizenship Act, 1946

The Canadian Citizenship Act of 1946 created the category of Canadian citizenship and allowed residents of Canada to obtain citizenship regardless of their country of origin.



Naturalization Act, 1914

The Naturalization Act of 1914 introduced more stringent requirements for naturalization in Canada. *To be approved for a certificate of naturalization, immigrants were required to live in Canada for five years, possess adequate knowledge of French or English, and exhibit good moral character.* The secretary of state held absolute discretionary powers to grant and withhold certificates of naturalization with no recourse for appeal.

Canadian Citizenship Act, 1946

The Canadian Citizenship Act of 1946 created the category of Canadian citizenship and allowed residents of Canada to obtain citizenship regardless of their country of origin. Prior to 1947, individuals born in Canada and naturalized immigrants were classified as British subjects rather than Canadian citizens. The new act established the criteria for obtaining citizenship and outlined the circumstances under which citizenship could be lost or revoked.

Locating Naturalization Records

Naturalization records may be at Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in the courts, or in archives.

After April 1951, Canada stopped publishing naturalization certificate lists.

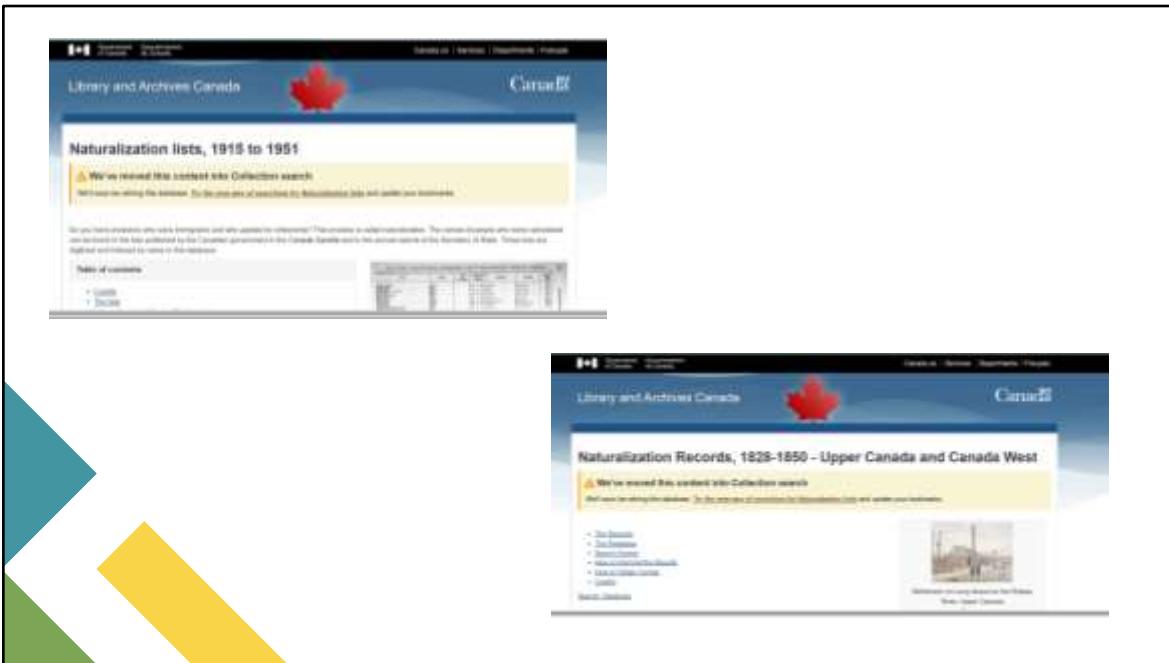


Locating Naturalization Records

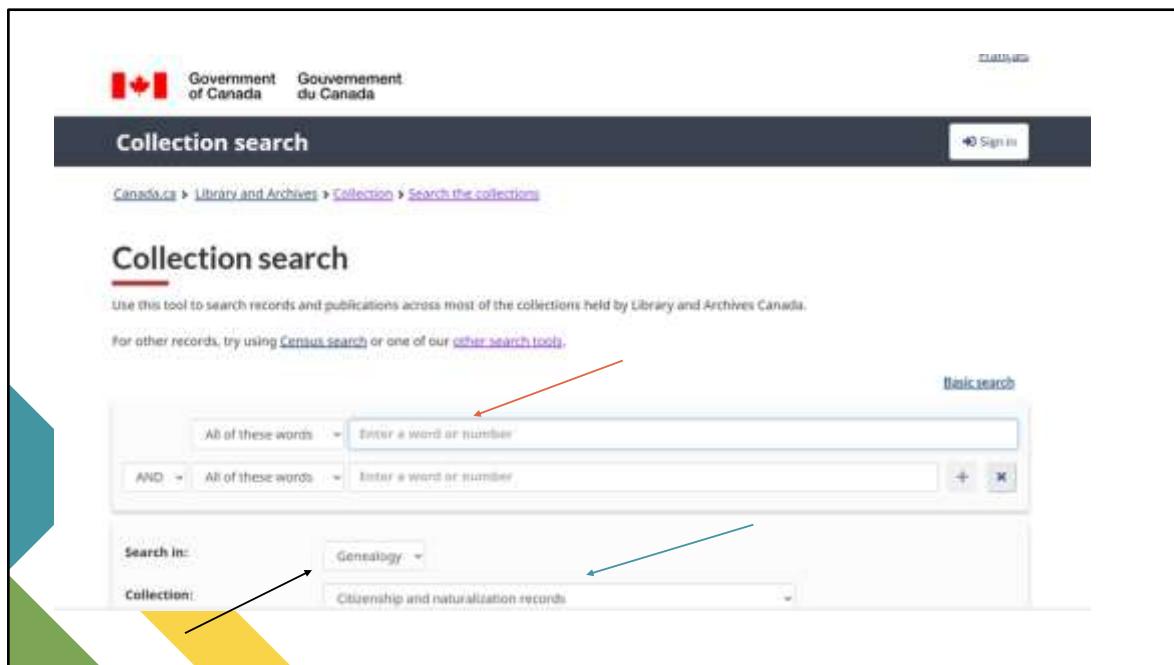
Naturalization proceedings were conducted by any executive office or judicial court that had the authority to grant citizenship. *Naturalization records may be at Citizenship and Immigration Canada, in the courts, or in archives.* The individual should have received a certificate when he finally became naturalized.

After April 1951, Canada stopped publishing naturalization certificate lists.

Citizenship or naturalization records are valuable for non-British immigrants. These records begin with some aliens' declarations taken in Lower Canada (Quebec) in the 1790s. Records from other eastern provinces date from the early or middle 1800s.

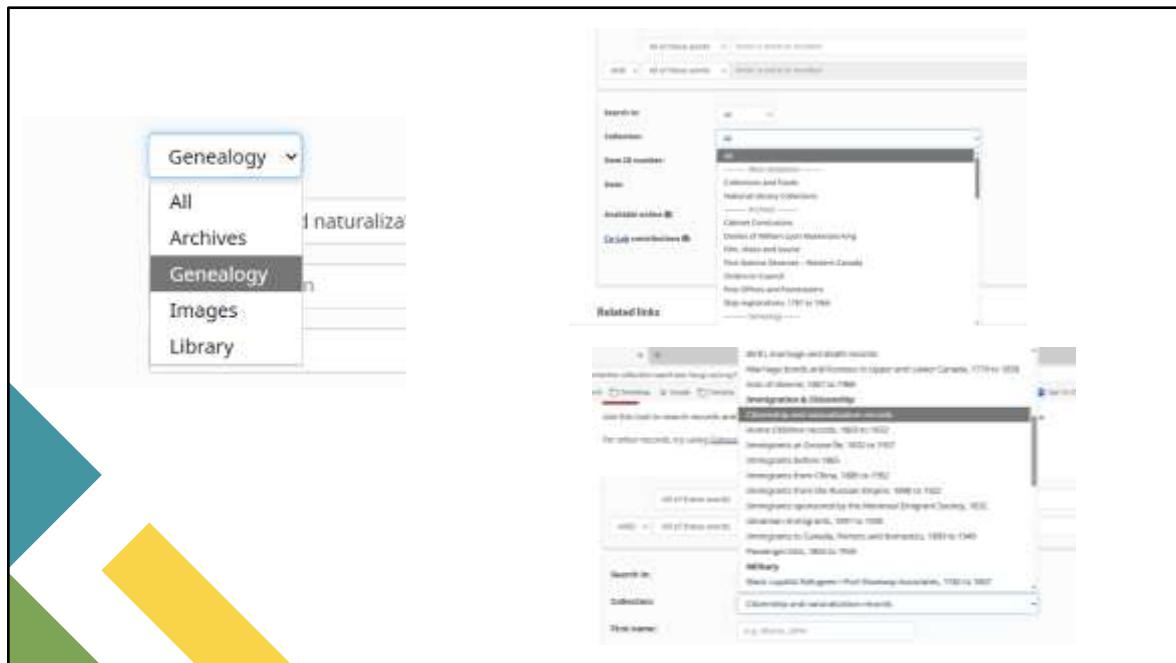


Library and Archives Canada have updated its website by providing a new way of searching for naturalization lists in one database. There used to be two searchable databases that included Naturalization Lists, 1915 to 1951 and Naturalization Records, 1828-1850 Upper Canada and Canada West. These old sites are no longer searchable.



This is a screenshot of the Library and Archives Canada searchable [naturalization database](#).

The 1931 census indicated the Demkiw family arrived in 1929, but it did not show a date when they became citizens. We can search for that information at the Library and Archives Canada collections website. When I tested this out, I put in the last name Demkiw for “all of these words” (orange arrow). Where it says search in (black arrow) I chose Genealogy in the drop-down box. Which collection to search in – again, it’s a drop-down box with a LOT of choices. I scrolled down to Citizenship and naturalization records (green arrow)



Here's a screenshot of the drop-down boxes.

The screenshot shows a search results page for the term 'Demkiw'. At the top, there are 'Modify search' and 'Start a new search' buttons. Below that is a search bar with the query 'Found in: Citizenship and naturalization records & All these words: Demkiw'. The search results are categorized by 'Found in' (General, Archives, Genealogy, Library, Images), with 'Genealogy' selected. The results table shows 27 items, with the first one highlighted. The results are sorted by relevance and displayed per page of 25. The first result is for 'Demkiw, Aleks' and includes details: 'Year of: 1933', 'naturalization', 'Type of record: Naturalization Rites', and 'Reference: Canada gazette, 1933, 2751'. There are download and print icons for this result. A red arrow points from the text 'Click on the digital object to verify if this is our person.' to the '1 digital object' link in the search results table.

Found in:	Showing 1 - 26 of 27 results	Sort by:	Relevance	Per page:	25
General (27) Immigration & Citizenship (27)					
Naturalization records 1915 to 1951 - Canada Gazette					
Date: 1930-1939 (2) 1940-1949 (11) 1950-1959 (9) 1960-1969 (5)					
Birth country: Austria (3) Poland (18)					

Demkiw, Aleks

1 digital object

Year of: 1933

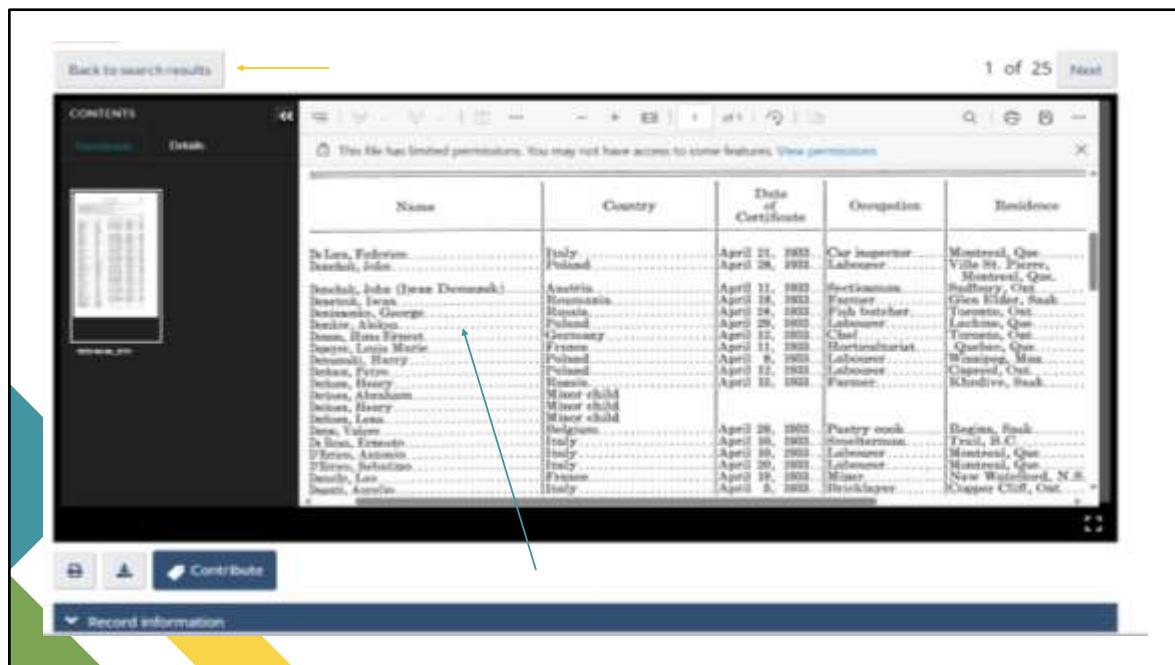
naturalization

Type of record: Naturalization Rites

Reference: Canada gazette, 1933, 2751

Download Print

There are 27 results to the search, and the first one is Aleks Demkiw. Click on the digital object to verify if this is our person.



1 of 25 [Next](#)

Back to search results

CONTENTS

[Newspaper](#) [Details](#)

This file has limited permissions. You may not have access to some features. [View permissions](#)

Name Country Date of Certificate Occupation Residence

De Luca, Federico	Italy	April 21, 1902	Car Inspector	Montreal, Que.
Deschênes, John	Poland	April 28, 1902	Labourer	Ville St. Pierre, Montreal, Que.
Deschêne, John (Ivan Demkiw)	Austria	April 11, 1902	Sheetmason	Bedford, Ont.
Deschêne, Irena	Russia	April 18, 1902	Painter	Green Elder, Sask.
Deschêne, George	Russia	April 24, 1902	Fish butcher	Gatineau, Ont.
Deschêne, John	Russia	April 24, 1902	Painter	Gatineau, Ont.
Deschêne, Anna	Germany	April 22, 1902	Child Labourer	Toronto, Ont.
Deschêne, Louis Marie	France	April 11, 1902	Horticulturist	Quebec, Que.
Deschêne, Harry	Poland	April 8, 1902	Labourer	Winnipeg, Man.
Deschêne, Peter	Poland	April 12, 1902	Labourer	Calgary, Ont.
Deschêne, Harry	Poland	April 12, 1902	Labourer	Rhode Island, USA
Deschêne, Louis	Poland	April 12, 1902	Farmer	
Deschêne, Valere	Belgium	April 28, 1902	Pastry cook	Regina, Sask.
De Rosa, Ernesto	Italy	April 10, 1902	Sheetmason	Vancouver, B.C.
De Rosa, Antonio	Italy	April 10, 1902	Labourer	Montreal, Que.
De Rosa, Salvatore	Italy	April 20, 1902	Labourer	Montreal, Que.
Deschêne, Lise	France	April 10, 1902	Labourer	New Westminster, N.W.
Deschêne, Amédée	Italy	April 8, 1902	Bookkeeper	Chippewa Cliff, Ont.

[Record information](#)

Clicking on the digital object will bring up the Canada Gazette as naturalizations were recorded and published there. This person is not part of our Demkiw family. So, go back to Search results and keep scrolling down.

The screenshot shows a digital archive search results page with two entries. Each entry includes a thumbnail image of a document, the name 'Demkiw', a category, a year, a type of record, and a reference. There are also buttons for sharing and viewing details.

Result Number	Demkiw Name	Category	Year	Type of Record	Reference
11	Demkiw, Maria	Genealogy / Immigration & Citizenship / Naturalization records, 1915 to 1951 - Canada Gazette	1942	Naturalization lists	Canada gazette, 1942, 4852
12	Demkiw, Mariy	Genealogy / Immigration & Citizenship / Naturalization records, 1915 to 1951 - Canada Gazette	1940	Naturalization lists	Canada gazette, 1940, 817

As you're scrolling through the results, you'll notice that they are in alphabetical order. We've found Maria Demkiw. If we kept going, we would find the rest of her family.

If you recall from the 1931 Census, Maria and her family arrived in Canada in 1929. They waited until 1940 before applying for citizenship. It took 2 years before it was granted on 30 January 1942.

Demkiw, Maria

[Back to search results](#)

Previous 11 of 25 Next

Screenshot of the published record. Further down the screen a Record Information will pop up.

Record information

Relationship: Minor child, Enfant mineur

Publication: Canada Gazette, OCLC number 433775828

Document year: 1942

Page number: 4852

Found in: Genealogy / Immigration & Citizenship / Naturalization records, 1913 to 1951 - Canada Gazette

Item ID number: 429075

Image number: 1942-05-06_4852

Help page: [Naturalization records, 1913 to 1951 - Canada Gazette](#)

[Suggest a correction](#)

[Add to My Research](#)

The Record Information shows Mary as a minor child. She was when she arrived but by 1942, she was married

In October 2013 I applied, through the Access to Information Request form, to obtain the Demkiw's application for naturalization. I received the entire file in November 2013. It includes a copy of the actual petition for naturalization dated May 27, 1940; both Fred and his wife had to sign the oath of allegiance to King George VI – Fred's dated 20 January 1942 and his wife 13 April 1942.

Demkiw timeline:

- 1929 arrived in Canada
- 1930 (August 14) applied for homestead
- 1940 (February 15) applied for patent (i.e., title) to homestead
- 1940 (May 27) applied for naturalization
- 1942 (January 30) granted naturalization
- 1942 (July 6) granted title to homestead



To recap, the Demkiw family timeline.

Sources:

Library and Archives Canada, Collections Search

- Census
- Passenger Lists
- Naturalization

Alberta Genealogical Society (AGS)

- Homestead Index
- Alberta Records Name Index (ARNI)
- Alberta Name Index (ANI)

Websites such as: Find-A-Grave.com; FamilySearch.org; Ancestry.ca; Newspapers.com (for Obituaries or stories), etc.

Local Libraries and Museums

Provincial Archives of Alberta

[Search Our Collection - Royal BC Museum](#) – Province of British Columbia

[Vital Statistics Genealogy Search Page](#) – Province of Saskatchewan

This slide shows a partial list where to look for documents. Other sources check for local histories at libraries, newspapers or newspapers.com; obituaries, Vital Statistics departments of local governments or local libraries and museums..

Other Family Research

Louis Vancha (1890-1968)

Theresa Vancha (1862-1937)

Michael Vancha (1892-1979)

George Werenka (1874-1954)

Theodore Biliar (Bilar) (1852-1925)



I'm told we have a bit more time so I'll tell you about some other families I'm researching.

I have other research projects on the go and sometimes I catch myself going down rabbit holes – then I need to make a decision – do I keep searching – ask myself why am I searching this family - do I have enough information on the family – is there anywhere else to look.



Other Family Research

George Werenka (1874-1954)

George Werenka (1874-1954)

One rabbit hole is the WERENKA family. I have been searching for *George Werenka (1914 - Bet. 2002-2009)* or more specifically his wife, *Olga Verbitsky (1920 - Bet. 2008-2022)* – and cannot find much of anything about either of them. There's nothing in Olga's family – parents, siblings, aunts/uncles, cousins, which had information that I could use to find her.

I decided to tackle locating George's family – I found his father *George Werenka (1874-1954)* who had 12 children and his grandfather *Todor Werenka ((1837-1926)*. I found information about most of those 12 children – but not "my" George.

I was able to find George "senior's" homestead application. He applied October 16, 1905; received his title or patent April 4, 1906 – it included a certificate of naturalization from the Dominion of Canada – Northwest Territories, dated 2 March 1904.

Other Family Research

Theodore Biliar (Bilar) (1852-1925)

Theodore Biliar (Bilar) (1852-1925)

Another rabbit hole is the BILAR family. Interestingly this family is related to the Werenga family. George senior was married to *Elena Bilar (1885-1968)* whose father is *Theodore Bilar (1852-1925)* who had at least 5 children. I went searching for them. I did locate Theodore Biliar's homestead records. He applied October 16, 1905; received patent April 4, 1906. The records contained his certificate of naturalization from the Dominion of Canada, Northwest Territories, dated March 9, 1904. I've now stopped looking.



Other Family Research

Louis Vancha (1890-1968)

Theresa Vancha (1862-1937)

Michael Vancha (1892-1979)

Vancha Family

A family member asked if I could do some research for her. She wanted to find out more about her spouse's mother, Mary Vancha (abt. 1926-unknown), specifically, was she First Nation as her spouse attended a First Nations Residential School or, at least, she thinks so. However, I'm quite confident he is not First Nation. The school also had "day" students – children from the rural farming area surrounding it – this family had a homestead in the area. However, I will attempt to locate school records.

I first searched for Mary's husband and his family. I found Joseph and his siblings and his parents – determined most of them immigrated from Hungary.

Finding Mary was a different challenge as she originated in Saskatchewan. Her last name is VANCHA, and the families I located in Saskatchewan proved to have been originally from Hungary/Austria. Three main families were located: Louis Vancha (1890-1968), Theresia Sekely Vancha (1862-1937), and Michael Vancha (1892-1979) – Mary's father. Keeping track of who is in which family was a challenge and, as it turns out, they are not related to each other. I was able to find information about each of these families and its members - nothing about Mary however - told me they are all Hungarians and not First Nations.

Questions?

Thank you

Thea Hawryluk